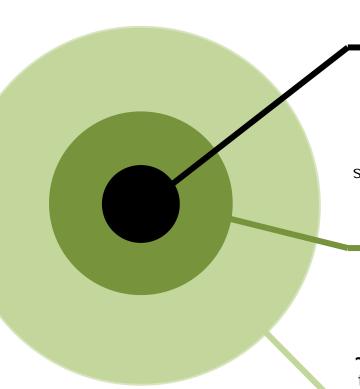


CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN WASHINGTON

Blue Ribbon Commission May 10, 2016

PRESENTED BY BENJAMIN DE HAAN

WHO ARE WE SERVING AND WHO SHOULD WE AIM TO SERVE



~ 100,000 children in Washington are served by the child welfare system¹

~200,000 children are receiving services from DSHS and are at high risk for child maltreatment (e.g., developmental disabilities, mental health services, substance abuse in the home, TANF)¹

~ 285,000 children in Washington meet the federal definition of poverty², a strong proxy for children at risk of maltreatment

¹ Washington DSHS data

² US Census

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Child welfare involvement is closely related to family **poverty**, parental **mental health** concerns, child behavioral health, domestic violence and **substance abuse**.

In 2009 a survey conducted with parents who were involved in the child welfare system in Washington, found that:

- 47% had an annual income less than \$10,000
- 81% of were receiving assistance from public programs, families or friends.
- Families reported a high unmet need for food, clothing, transportation, and housing
- 56% of parents met the criteria for one or more mental health disorders and 35% had experienced domestic violence

CREATING A CHILDREN'S, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

Opportunities

- Opportunity to create an enhanced prevention framework for vulnerable children and families
- Greater opportunity to link to child-focused outcomes
- Brings an elevated focus on children's issues with a direct voice to the Governor
- A smaller agency brings increased opportunity for flexibility, innovation and partnerships